

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-10

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TO ALL AMERICAN REPUBLIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS
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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 038711

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, OAS

SUBJECT: OAS WRAP-UP 2/76

REFERENCES: (A) STATE 027067 (B) STATE 299853 (C) STATE
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1. CHARTER REFORM. IN EFFORT TO SPEED UP PERMANENT
COUNCIL'S REVIEW OF DRAFT CHARTER AND BECAUSE WE FEEL USG
HAS MADE CLEAR CASE FOR ITS RESERVATIONS ALREADY, US REP
MADE STATEMENT FEBRUARY 6 QUOTED IN STATE 03044 WITHDRAWING
OUR REMAINING AMENDMENTS. REVIEW OF CHAPTER VII ON ECONOMIC
STANDARDS SUSPENDED UNTIL WORKING GROUP REPORTS ON COLLEC-
TIVE ECONOMIC SECURITY/COOPERATION FOR DEVELOPMENT. EFFORT
TO INITIATE BROADER REFORM OF OAS AND TO RAISE LEVEL OF CON-
SIDERATION FROM PERMANENT COUNCIL TO LEADERSHIP CIRCLES OF
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MEMBER STATES RECEIVING STRONG IMPETUS FROM SECRETARY

KISSINGER'S OWN INVOLVEMENT IN ISSUE. HE DISCUSSED OAS REFORM AT MEETING FEBRUARY 13 WITH SECGEN ORFILA AND WILL CONTINUE TO RAISE IT DURING VISITS THIS WEEK TO VENEZUELA, BRAZIL, PERU, COLOMBIA AND COSTA RICA. THUS FAR, AMONG FOREIGN MINISTERS APPROACHED DIRECTLY, REACTION HAS BEEN RELATIVELY POSITIVE TO PROPOSALS SKETCHED OUT IN STATE 018860, ALTHOUGH SEVERAL ASKED THAT WE AWAIT MORE CONSIDERED OPINIONS ON ONE OR TWO OF THE POINTS RAISED.

AMBASSADOR MAILLIARD RETURNED FEBRUARY 14 FROM TOUR OF HALF-DOZEN CENTRAL AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN CAPITALS WHERE HE ALSO MET FAIRLY CONSTRUCTIVE REACTIONS TO OUR POINT OF VIEW.

2. TNES. ARGENTINA, MEXICO AND BRAZIL HAVE INSPIRED EMERGING CONSENSUS THAT OAS ACTION ON PRINCIPLES FOR A CODE OF CONDUCT BE POSTPONED UNTIL AFTER THE UN FINISHES ITS WORK. UN COMMISSION ON TNES DUE TO BEGIN SESSIONS IN LIMA ON MARCH 1.

3. COLLECTIVE ECONOMIC SECURITY/COOPERATION FOR DEVELOPMENT. WORKING GROUP COMPOSED OF ENTIRE MEMBERSHIP OF PERMANENT COUNCIL BEGAN RECONSIDERATION OF DRAFT CONVENTION ON COLLECTIVE ECONOMIC SECURITY LAST WEEK. WE STATED OUR WELL-KNOWN OPPOSITION TO SUCH A TREATY AND REITERATED PRINCIPAL ARGUMENTS FOR OUR STAND. NOT CLEAR HOW CONVENIO DEBATE WILL PROCEED BUT FAILURE TO ACHIEVE QUORUM AT SECOND SESSION OF WORKING GROUP MAY INDICATE MOUNTING DISINTEREST. PRINCIPLES OF COOPERATION FOR DEVELOPMENT HAVE BEEN LENGTHILY DEBATED DURING CHARTER REVIEW PROCESS AND MAJORITY ARE INCORPORATED IN PRESENT DRAFT CHARTER. PERMANENT COUNCIL HAS SUSPENDED CONSIDERATION OF CHAPTER VII PENDING COMPLETION OF WORKING GROUP'S REVIEW OF COLLECTIVE ECONOMIC SECURITY/COOPERATION FOR DEVELOPMENT.

4. GUATEMALA EARTHQUAKE: OAS LAST WEEK VOTED \$700,000 FOR EARTHQUAKE ASSISTANCE TO GUATEMALA, HONDURAS AND SALVADOR. IN ADDITION, VENEZUELA ANNOUNCED LARGE CONTRIBUTION (UP TO \$20 MILLION) FOR GUATEMALAN RELIEF. IT WAS NOT CLEAR HOWEVER WHETHER GOV INTENDS THAT ITS CONTRIBUTION BE ADMINISTERED BY THE OAS OR THE IDB. AT PERMANENT COUNCIL
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SESSION FEBRUARY 11, HONDURAS TURNED BACK ITS EMERGENCY AID FUNDS FOR USE IN GUATEMALA WHERE DAMAGE INFINITELY GREATER.

5. GA AGENDA. PERMANENT COUNCIL FEBRUARY 10 REVIEWED PRELIMINARY DRAFT OF AGENDA FOR OAS GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO COMMENCE IN SANTIAGO JUNE 10. CHILE INTRODUCED AS NEW ITEM PROPOSAL ON HUMAN RIGHTS VERIFICATION IN OAS THAT US REP (WHITE) AGREED TO SUPPORT ON UNDERSTANDING ITS

PURPOSE WAS TO STRENGTHEN INTER-AMERICAN HUMAN RIGHTS
COMMISSION (IAHRC). CHILEAN DEL WAFFLED IN HIS RESPONSE
BUT ULTIMATELY AGREED STRENGTHENING OF IAHRC WAS ONE OB-
JECTIVE OF CHILEAN PROPOSAL. INGERSOLL

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